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be glad if early habit were not in some respects perpetually getting the better of his authority ; and in all else we see reason to applaud equally his industry, judgment, and taste. Shortly after our last issue, we received, through his kindness, a copy of this Dictionary, and our *à priori* judgment as to its merits has been amply confirmed by our frequent use of it through a quarter's labor of revision and proof-reading. In the "war of the dictionaries," we are unwilling to enlist on either side ; our quarto Webster we prize none the less for this collateral authority and aid ; and, were we to conform our precept to our example, we should advise our readers to use both.

8.—*Physical Geography for Families and Schools.* By R. M. ZORN-LIN. Revised, with Additions, by WILLIAM L. GAGE, Master of the Taunton High School. Boston : James Munroe & Co. 1855. 16mo. pp. 159.

WE like this book, and, were there more of it, *we* should like it better. Its brevity is secured by condensation rather than by omission ; and a certain measure of dryness is inevitable from the attempt to compress so much matter within so small a space. But the arrangement is excellent, the examples and illustrations are well selected, and scientific terms are lucidly defined. Whether it would be an entertaining book for "families," or good as a mere task-book for "schools," we have our doubts. Its true use would be as a syllabus for recitation, where the teacher is qualified to accompany it by oral explanations and lectures ; and such a teacher would probably prefer it to a more diffuse text-book.

9.—*The Christian Year. Thoughts in Verse for the Sundays and Holidays throughout the Year.* By the Rev. JOHN KEBLE, Vicar of Hursley. Elegantly illustrated by Schmolze. Philadelphia : E. H. Butler & Co. 1856. 12mo. pp. 368.

THIS work has been so long before the public, that there is no need of our saying how rich it is in devotional thought, serene, fervent, and lofty, how lovingly it traces the Saviour's footprints as they are marked through "the Christian year," or how many gems of the choicest poetry are scattered through its pages. The present is by far the most beautiful edition of it that we have ever seen, and in all the details of mechanical execution is unsurpassed in tasteful elegance. The engravings

are from original designs on well-chosen subjects, and vindicate the artist's claim to a foremost place in his profession. Among the many illustrated works which have fallen under our inspection, we have seldom chanced upon so charming a group as that in the book before us, entitled "Morning," with the motto, "His compassions fail not; they are new every morning."

10. — 1. *Sermons; chiefly Practical.* By the Senior Minister of the West Church in Boston. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1855. 12mo. pp. 362.
2. *Sermons; chiefly Occasional.* By CHARLES LOWELL, Senior Minister of the West Church in Boston. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1855. 12mo. pp. 329.

As a devotedly faithful pastor, Dr. Lowell can have had no superiors; as a popular preacher, he had few equals among his coevals. Nature had given him exterior endowments of a very choice order; while profound earnestness and solemnity of spirit imparted a higher majesty to his mien, and a more persuasive unction to his voice. In the retirement of enfeebled age, he has found a congenial occupation in preparing these volumes for the press. The first thing that strikes us in reading the sermons they contain is the simplicity of their style. Though they treat of profound themes, and present the results of reflection and learning, there is hardly a sentence in them which an intelligent child could not understand. They are equally characterized by a directness of religious purpose, which is never lost from sight,—indicating the preacher who merges all other conceptions and functions of his office in that which makes him the messenger of God to imperilled and undying souls. These traits almost necessarily imply what yet may merit emphatic remark,—extreme naturalness. The sermon would, we think, give one who had never known him a just impression of the man. We feel, as we read, that there are no words of course, no professional formulæ, no traditional pulpit falsities; but the direct expression of sentiments which the writer could not but utter in his daily conversation, no less than in the pulpit. The discourses are both dignified and graceful in language, yet not so as the result of any effort at fine or impressive writing, but because these attributes appertain to the author's character, and are therefore inseparable from his literary labors.